

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 240530Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6828

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANNA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 3495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MU YS

SUBJ: ARAB CONCILIATION COMMITTEE ON SOUTH ARABIA

BEGIN SUMMARY: ARAB CONCILIATION COMMITTEE (ACC) HAD USEFUL MEETING MAY 11 WITH QABUS AND WILL SEE PFLOAG DEL MAY 26 IN CAIRO. PDRY CONTINUES TO AVOID DIRECT CONTACT WITH ACC. SAG ALSO REMAINS ALOOF, BUT GOE SEEMS TO BE TAKING GREATER INTEREST IN FINDING SOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. MUHAMMAD WAHID AL-DIN AL-DALI, ARAB LEAGUE'S DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, BRIEFED EMBOFF MAY 23 ON ACTIVITIES OF ARAB CONCILIATION COMMITTEE.

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2. ACC MEMBERSHIP IS AS FOLLOWS:

ALGERIA MUHAMMAD YAZID, AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON
LIBYA ABD AL-RAZIQU UMAYYIR, AMBASSADOR TO ARAB LEAGUE
TUNISIA MUHAMMAD AMAMU, AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON
SYRIA 'IZZ AL-DIN NU'AYSA, AMBASSADOR TO ARAB LEAGUE
KUWAIT SULAYMAN AL-SHAHIN, AMBASSADOR TO UAE
EGYPT IZZAT SULAYMAN, DIRECTOR OF ARAB AFFAIRS, MFA
(COMMENT: IZZAT HAS REPLACED HASAN FAHMY ABD AL-MAGUID,
GOE AMBASSADOR TO AL, AS EGYPTIAN MEMBER. IZZAT IS RANKING
EGYPTIAN EXPERT ON PDRY, HAVING BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN
YEMENI POLITICS UP TO TIME OF PDRY INDEPENDENCE.)
ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN MAHMUD RIAD (CHAIRMAN), ASST. SEC GEN
NOFAL, AND AL-DALI (RAPPORTEUR).

3. ACCORDING TO AL-DALI, ACC HAD FRUITFUL MEETING WITH
KUWAITI FM MAY 8, DURING WHICH SHAYKH SABAH REAFFIRMED GOK'S
STRONG INTEREST IN RESOLVING PROBLEM. (COMMENT: AL-DALI ADDED
THAT KUWAITIS HAVE SO FAR GIVEN MORE THAN 4 MILLION DINARS TO
PDRY TO "REASSURE THEM". KUWAITIS HAVE BETTER CONTACTS THAN
ANY OTHER ARAB STATE WITH PDRY AND CONTINUE TO CONDUCT "INTENSIVE"
EFFORTS TO BRING ADEN INTO LESS REVOLUTIONARY FRAME OF MIND.)

4. ACC FLEW TO OMAN IN SABAH AL-AHMAD'S PRIVATE PLANE. IN
MUSCAT, PARTY MET MAY 11 WITH DELEGATION OF FIVE, HEADED BY FM
ZAWAWI, WHICH INCLUDED MFA UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTER OF COMMUNI-
CATIONS, AND MINISTER OF LAND. OF FIVE, THREE HAD BEEN REBELS
TO WHOM QABUS HAD GIVEN SENIOR POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT. ZAWAWI
MADE USUAL PITCH THAT IRANIANS WERE IN OMAN BECAUSE ARAB
BROTHERS, INCLUDING QADHAAFI, HAD DECLINED TO HELP SULTAN INSURE
INTERNAL SECURITY. IRANIANS, JORDANIANS AND BRITISH WOULD
LEAVE AT MOMENT'S NOTICE IF SO REQUESTED. ISLANDS OF
UM AL-GHANAM AND KURIA MURIA MOST CERTAINLY NOT UNDER
IRANIAN OCCUPATION. WHEN ACC RECALLED "HELPFUL" ROLE
OF AL FORCE IN KUWAIT AFTER IRAQI INVASION THREAT, OMANIS
REPORTEDLY RESPONDED POSITIVELY. (COMMENT: AL-DALI TOLD
EMBOFF THAT KUWAITI PRECEDENT WAS USEFUL IN THIS CASE,
STRESSING ACC, NOT OMANIS HAD RASISED IT.)

5. EVENING OF SAME DAY, ACC HAD TWO HOUR MEETING WITH QABUS
WHO WAS "IMPRESSIVE" IN HIS STATISTICAL RECITATION OF INCREASE
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IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AND ROADS SINCE HE CAME TO THRONE.
HIS CHIEF TALKING POINT WAS AN APPEAL TO AL COLLEAGUES TO
RESTRAIN PDRY, MEMBER STATE IN AL, FROM DISRUPTING HIS PLANS
FOR DEVELOPMENT. QABUS' PRESENTATION WAS SIMILAR TO ZAWAWI'S,
AND HE TOO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN IDEA OF AL ARMED FORCE.

6. PDRY HAS SO FAR RESISTED ANY MEETING WITH ACC. REQUEST BY
ACC BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR KUWAIT FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT ADEN

IS STILL UNANSWERED. PM ALI NASIR, WHO WAS IN KUWAIT WHILE ACC WAS MEETING IN MUSCAT, DECLINED TO REMAIN THERE TO MEET ACC ON WAY HOME. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO GIVE SHAYKH SABAH PDRY VIEWS ON ACC MISSION. SULAYMAN AL-SHAHIN WILL BRIEF ACC ON SABAH-NASIR INTERVIEW AT MAY 26 ACC MEETING IN CAIRO. AL-DALI IMPLIED THAT ACC EXPECTS MORE THAN THE USUAL PDRY LINE THAT ADEN IS IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN DHOFAR.

7. PFLOAG IS APPARENTLY EAGER TO CONSULT WITH ACC. RIAD SENT CABLE, ADDRESSED "NAHIS, MUKALLA," TO PFLOAG BEFORE ACC DEPARTED FOR KUWAIT. PFLOAG DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH ACC IN CAIRO MAY 26.

8. COMMENT: AL-DALI CAUTIONED THAT NO ONE IS EXPECTING A SOLUTION OVERNIGHT. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, HE SAID SAG CONTINUES RATHER OSTENTATIOUS NON-INVOLVEMENT WITH ACC. MAHMUD RIAD, HOWEVER, IS TAKING GREAT INTEREST IN PROBLEM, AND CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM PREVAILS AT AL.

9. GOE INTEREST IN DHOFAR SEEMS TO BE ON UP-GRADE. SELECTION OF IZZAT SULAYMAN, TOP GOE EXPERT ON YEMEN, IS NOTEWORTHY. FURTHER, RECENT EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF DHOFAR, ALTHOUGH SPARSE, IS NOTABLY SYMPATHETIC TO SULTAN. AHRAH MAY 16 ANNOUNCED RETURN OF ACC FROM MUSCAT AND MENTIONED QABUS' "READINESS" TO ASSIST AL MISSION. AKHBAR AL-YAWM MAY 20 PRINTED STATEMENT BY NEW OMANI AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT IN WHICH HE SAID OMAN WELCOMES EVERY GOOD OFFICE TO SETTLE DISPUTE RESULTING FROM PDRY INTERFERENCE IN OMAN'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. "QABUS SPENDS MONEY ON DEVELOPMENT, NOT WAR." GUMHURIYYA MAY 21 AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE MAY 23 HAD LENGTHY INTERVIEW, DATELINED MUSCAT, WITH OMANI INFORMATION MINISTER, MINISTER WELCOMED ACC VISIT TO HORMUZ, UMM AL-GHAMAM AND KUHIA MURIA TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES FALSITY OF "COMMUNIST"

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ALLEGATIONS THAT THESE AREAS ARE UNDER IRANIAN "OCCUPATION". JORDANIAN AND BRITISH EXPERTS WORK FOR OMAN, NOT VICE VERSA. IRAN HAS OFFERED NO LOAN, HAS NO BIG COMPANIES, AND HAS "GAINED NO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS". QABUS HAS FOUGHT MUTINEERS WITH DEVELOPMENT; HE IS "OPPOSED TO BLOODSHED AND STRAINED RELATIONS WITH HIS NEIGHBORS."

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